



## Prison Posada December 2009 Puerto Peñasco

*Prisoners raise  
hands as they join  
Pastor Jesse in  
prayer*

### Travel Journal of Manos de Dios Missions to Mexico

Dennis & Lucy Smith

What we're doing...

Encouraging, equipping &  
empowering indigenous  
pastors in Sonora, Mexico

Prison Ministry in  
Puerto Peñasco

Praying/listening to God

Seeking Godly  
transformation of ourselves  
and others

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This year's annual Posada (Christmas celebration) in the prison was an opportunity to share God's love with 350 prisoners and some of the prison guards. 30 some volunteers, including four pastors, gathered outside the prison walls to pray, inviting God's presence and asking for protection for all the day's activities and participants. We entered with the meal (a huge pot of Birria (shredded meat), chile meat sauce, refried beans, tortillas, pies, coffee and juice), sound equipment, and gifts for the prisoners. Two pastors came from out of town to speak with the prisoners. They started with some easy-to-sing praise songs and shared the reason they were there. Each of the speaking pastors is a former convict who has since dedicated his life to sharing his story and the message of God's grace with prisoners. Next, two dramas were shared from the stage. One was entirely put on by prisoners, men and women from the weekly Bible Studies. It was excellent and a wonderful opportunity for the Christians to work together to put on this drama.



Pastor Jesse then shared his testimony and God's simple message... ***The Creator of the universe sent His Son to live here on earth as a human...for them. It is because of His great love for them that Jesus came and He has a wonderful purpose for each of them. Simply accept what He has done for you, repent of trying to 'do it yourself' and humbly allow His grace to guide you in the path of trusting Him. Amen!*** Many prisoners prayed tearfully to accept this Gift. Thank you, Lord, for your heart for those in prison. Continue to transform each one with your Holy Spirit!

...Lucy





**Prisoners and visitors sing praises to God in El Cereso, Puerto Peñasco (Lucy in gray sweatshirt)**

**Pies served to prisoners at Posada.**



**Nadia (age 17 ) made seven (7) apple pies from scratch for the prison posada this year. They looked professionally made and were very popular and delicious!**

## **Pies, whipped cream, coffee!**

**Our annual involvement in the Peñasco prison Christmas posada has always been a blessing to us and we pray it is also to the men and women that call the prison home. One of the many blessings Manos de Dios is blessed to share is the PIES. The prisoners begin to ask in October if we are going to serve pies at the Posada again this year!**

**Each year our supporters provide the necessary pies to serve all in prison. Thanks to the generous outpouring of pies, we had enough to serve ‘seconds’ to all this year! The prisoners enjoy the variety of pies and of course, the whipped cream! This a dessert they receive only once a year! And, the men and women love having freshly brewed coffee, complete with milk and sugar! We are reminded that we often take for granted the abundance of food and treats that are available to us daily. It is a blessing to serve this King’s Feast to ‘the least of these’ and give thanks to the Lord for His wonderful provision.**

**Each prison received a gift after the meal was served. The men received toiletries, a sports water bottle and a shirt. Each women received a purse stuffed with personal items, knit gloves and a love letter from Jesus.**

**Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of serving ,**

**Dennis**